

REMARKS**I. Status of the Claims:**

Claims 37-72, and 74-86 are pending in this application.

By this Amendment, claims 62-86 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 37, 48 and 57 have also been amended. Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 37-61 would be pending. No new matter is believed to have been introduced by this Amendment. Entry of this Amendment before examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 37-41, 44-46, 48-55, 57, 58, 60, 62-66, 69-71, 74-77, 79-80, 82-83 and 85-86 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,371,613 to Arimoto et al. ("Arimoto") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,072,912 to Orito ("Orito") and U.S. Patent No. 5,912,992 to Sawada ("Sawada"). Claims 42-43, 47, 56, 67-68, 72 and 81 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Arimoto in view of Orito and Sawada and U.S. Patent No. 5,644,409 to Irie ("Irie"). Claims 59, 61 and 84 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Arimoto in view of Orito and Sawada and U.S. Patent No. 5,960,110 to Usami ("Usami"). Claim 78 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Arimoto in view of Orito and Sawada and U.S. Patent No. 5,581,636 to Skinger ("Skinger"). Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration for at least the following reasons.

Claim 37, as amended, is direct to an image sensing apparatus having an image sensor which separately reads out image signals from a plurality of photoreceptive pixels via a

plurality of output channels; and a plurality of adjustment units, respectively corresponding to said plurality of output channels. As claimed, the image sensor is a part of an image sensing apparatus (e.g., such as a CCD, CMOS sensor, or the like) and is not a whole apparatus, such as an image scanner 30 in Orito.

By way of example, the plurality of adjustment units are shown as, e.g., the black offset/shading correction circuits 9 to 12, respectively corresponding to the output channels ODD-1, EVEN-1, ODD-2 and EVEN-2. All of the plurality of adjusting units, for example, adjust the signals from the output channels based on the first and second reference levels.

Turning to the cited references, Arimoto does not teach or suggest to read out image signals from a plurality of photoreceptive pixels via a plurality of output channels or to have a plurality of adjusting units respectively corresponding to the plurality of output channels.

As for Orito, this reference does not disclose or suggest a plurality of output channels. Instead, Orito discloses an image scanner having 1648 charge coupled devices (CCDs) that are output by a single DMA controller 74. Further, according to the description in column 5, lines 9-14 of Orito (mentioned on page 6, lines 15-16 of the Office Action), the image scanner 30 transfers the image data of the read tone image to the host computer in parallel according to IEEE1284 communication interface standard. However, there is also no teaching about reading out image signals from a plurality of photoreceptive pixels via a plurality of output channels in parallel. Furthermore, Orito is silent as to the image scanner having a plurality of adjustment units respectively corresponding to the plurality of output channels.

Finally, Sawada discloses to calculate the shade density of the intermediate point by an interpolating method generates a shade image. However, Sawada does not teach or suggest a plurality of output channels through which image signals are read out from a plurality

of photoreceptive pixels and a plurality of adjustment units respectively corresponding to the plurality of output channels.

Thus, none of the cited references Arimoto, Orito and Sawada discloses the image sensor having the plurality of output channels, and the plurality of adjustment units respectively corresponding to the plurality of output channels. Accordingly, claim 37 and its dependent claims are believed to be distinguishable over the cited references, individually or in combination.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

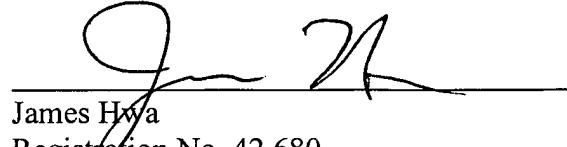
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4676.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4676.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: 4/6/06

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